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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 4 VOLUME 15

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

MP touches base with new mayor

InPort News Staff

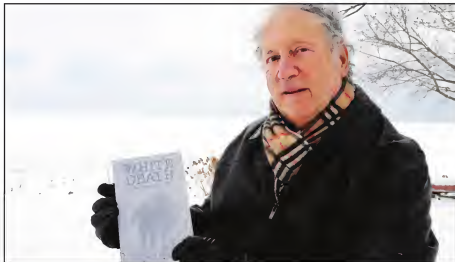
WAINFLEET — Welland MP Malcolm Allen made a stop in Wainfleet Township last week to talk politics and touch base with the township's new mayor.

see ALLEN page 2

ERNO ROSSI: Author talks about 34-year-old event

Conditions perfect for blizzard in '77

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne author Erno Rossi holds a copy of the 30th anniversary edition of *White Death: Blizzard of '77*, in the backyard of his Tennessee Ave. home. As the 34th anniversary of the blizzard approaches, Rossi said conditions to form a storm such as that may never be the same again as they were that day in 1977.

PORT COLBORNE — Friday, Jan. 28, 1977. Erno Rossi was at his Tennessee Ave. home marking school papers when the weather started to turn over Lake Erie. A flock of geese feeding on Gravelly Bay in Port Colborne suddenly dropped to the ice and buried their heads under their wings. Snow started to come in off the lake.

"It was really unusual weather," said the retired high school teacher one week before the 34th anniversary of the blizzard of '77.

Rossi drove across town to pick up his wife as the Port Colborne Hydro office, but her manager wouldn't let her go home. Her manager, he said, left instead.

"My wife had to be brought home in a hydro truck later that day," he said.

see BLIZZARD page 2

See Inside:
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■ BLIZZARD

Tonnes of snow buried everything in its path

FROM PAGE 1

"I pulled my children from school earlier in the day."

As the storm started to intensify, Rossi, who taught history and sociology, turned on radios in his home on Lake Erie and started listening to emergency broadcasts from the U.S. and Canada.

"There wasn't much on TV," Rossi thought he could put the radio broadcasts to good use for his disaster survival class at Port Colborne High School.

"I thought it would be perfect for class and the students would pay attention to it."

What he didn't know was the blizzard would last for four days and blast south Niagara and Western New York.

It buried homes, cars, businesses and anything in its path under tons of snow.

Conditions for the blizzard, Rossi said, were perfect.

Lake Erie's surface area of 25,700 square kilometres was

covered in ice and metre deep light snow. Record cold days and snowstorms leading up to Jan. 28 ensured the snow on the lake stayed light and fluffy. The cold kept it from becoming packed down.

Winds on Jan. 28 started to pick up and came out of the southwest at 115 km/h to 130 km/h. Those winds picked up all of the snow on the lake and started to dump it on shore and inland.

"In effect, it was a lake effect land blizzard," said Rossi.

If the snow on the lake had been packed down, if Lake Erie wasn't frozen completely over, and if the conditions were any different, there may have never been a blizzard, said the author of *White Death: The Blizzard of '77*.

When the storm was over four days later, Rossi knew it was something different and decided he would document the Canadian experience, knowing people should have stories to tell.



File photo

A crew of neighbours digs out at First Ave. near Quaker Road School during the Blizzard of 77.

He said his own wife became somewhat claustrophobic during the storm.

As the months went by and he started to collect data on the storm, Rossi found the weather service, based in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the time, didn't have anything on the amount of snow on the ground in south Niagara.

He crossed over the border

to Buffalo in the summer and found out they had a lot of data on the storm.

"I went to the Buffalo News to see its librarian and line up some photos for my book."

The librarian, he said, asked what he wanted to do with the photos and Rossi told her that he was writing a book on the Canadian experience during the blizzard and needed

photos to illustrate it.

"She said, 'What about the American experience?'"

Rossi figured there would be a lot of people on the American side looking to write a book on the experience. He learned there were none and so decided to write what happened to our neighbours to the east. The librarian at the Buffalo News ended up giving the photos to Rossi at no cost.

Before he knew it, an office was arranged at a Red Cross building in Buffalo and he started to make calls around western New York, speaking to anyone who would talk about their experiences.

"I had some assistants at Port High and they would type up all the interviews I did. I'd edit them and then they'd retype them," he said, adding he received a grant for the assistants.

While putting the book together, Rossi found some interesting statistics.

Blizzard of 77: See more pictures, page 3

"The birth rate nine months after the blizzard was up 38% in Niagara and there was a 3% jump in Erie County."

Rossi couldn't account for the differences until he looked at the abortion rate in the states, where abortion on demand was allowed at the time.

"The abortion rate was up 45% in Erie County and about 3% in Niagara."

As the years pass by, Rossi continues to receive information and stories from people about the blizzard. He's updated his book a couple of times now, adding stories and photos.

There's never been a repeat of the blizzard of '77 in the area.

"It may never see conditions like that again," he said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

■ ALLEN

Drainage issues, feeder canal, sewer and agriculture on the table

FROM PAGE 1

April Jeffs said the two talked about a few things during his visit to township hall.

"Malcolm just wanted to explain how certain things worked with the federal government and how I could get a hold of him if we needed his help."

Jeffs said Allen told her what matters be to help to assist the township with



Malcolm Allen

should the need arise.

"He told me about a drainage issue he helped out with in Port Colborne and with our drain program

in Wainfleet. It was good to know he may be able to help us."

The two talked about the Feeder Canal. Jeffs has spoken about wanting to do something with the former canal that passes through the township.

Though nothing has been brought to council, she believes it could be a tourist attraction and thought it could be given a federal heritage designation. St. Catharines regional Council Bruce Timms is trying to have

old sections of the Welland Canal designated and Jeffs said it's possible the two could go together.

"Malcolm said he'd write a letter if we needed and talk to both the Region and federal government about the Feeder."

She said the MP was aware of the recent motion made by the township in relation of the water-sewer issue. The township will ask for the Big Pipe solution, as the issue is



April Jeffs

known, to it is through innovation and partnership, it would give us a better chance of having the federal government look at it. It was excited when he said the solution for failing septic systems instead.

"Malcolm said maintenance (of septic systems) may not be a funding issue federal-

ally but said if we could tie it in through innovation and partnership, it would give us a better chance of having the federal government look at it. It was excited when he said the solution for failing septic systems instead.

"It was a good meeting. I think there are things he may be able to help us with down the road."

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portraits

The Blizzard of '77



Tribune file photos
Niagara was covered in snow after a four-day blizzard hit the area on Jan. 31, 1977. In the ensuing days, it was a familiar scene to see residents using whatever means possible, both photos above, to dig out buried vehicles. Sometimes, only an aerial poking through the drifts, right, let you know a car was buried beneath. At left, A school bus that was buried in the blizzard on Tice Rd. in Pelham.



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ourview

Poor diet

Participants in the recent provincial Put Food in the Budget initiative found the food bank diet a little hard to stomach.

The 70 residents from Port Colborne and Wainfleet that took part in the three-day challenge had a number of issues with the non-perishable food items.

There was no lack of food, but rather issues involved in planning around the diet, not having much in the way of choice, working with health-related issues and dealing with food very high in sodium content.

The high sodium content seemed to cause the most problems with participants. Headaches and stomach aches were not uncommon during the three-day challenge. Intestinal problems also seemed to be a factor.

For one participant, high sugar content in some of the items meant he skipped eating to ensure he kept his diabetes in check.

The challenge opened participants eyes to what those who use food banks every week have to go through.

What the Put Food in the Budget initiative wants to see happen is a \$100 increase in social assistance programs so people can buy fresh fruit and produce.

We think the provincial government needs to pony up that \$100. While it may claim it doesn't have the funding to meet the need, it would actually help in the end.

A poor diet can lead to all sorts of health problems, especially with those already have problems. And with childhood obesity rates increasing, fresh fruit and produce could help cut that down.

Increased health problems mean more people across the provincial health care system, which is strained as it is, and drive costs up.

If people were healthier, costs associated with health care would more than likely decrease.

Well-kept secret

If you live in Port Colborne, chances are you've passed by Arts Place Gallery many times and may not have even noticed it.

The 16-member gallery, at 714 King St., sits in what used to be a former service station, and has been there since 1992. Every month or so, a different member has their work displayed on one of the gallery's walls.

This month, various members have colourful work hanging, a way to combat the cold, dull, dreary weather of winter.

Next month, the gallery plans to hold an exhibit of found objects that artists have painted. It should be an interesting display.

We'd encourage everyone to stop on by and visit the gallery when they get a chance. It's open Fridays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

readers'views

We are getting the government we deserve

It was nice to see the large turnout on a stormy Saturday morning to get the other side of the story on wind energy. Wind energy appeals to many because it is green.

But is it really green? Alternate power sources must always be on tap when the wind fails. This alternate power must always be up and running as you cannot just switch it on and off. Running these plants at less than design level is not efficient and probably emits as many pollutants as when running at its should.

Wainfleet is not known for its employment opportunities or tourism attractions. Where proposed new facilities threaten existing businesses and tourist attractions, they should not be considered.

The Ontario Liberal government has taken control of where so-called green energy projects can be located and has contracted to pay many times the going cost of electricity to those operating these systems. That money comes out of our pockets.

It is interesting that only 30 to 40% of eligible voters vote, which means 60% or more of eligible voters over and above those who voted a party to power opposed to what that party does.

I guess we get the government we deserve.

Bernie Casuck
Wainfleet

■ PETS

Dogs of Group 3 — The Working Group

Originally the working group consisted of dogs that worked for man by doing something other than hunting and retrieving. But this group contained too many breeds of dogs. So it was decided back in the 1980's to divide the group and make it two groups.

All the dogs that were used primarily for herding were put into the new group and it was called the Herding Group or Group #7. All the rest of the working dogs remained in the working group or Group #3.

Dogs were used for a variety of different jobs depending on their temperament, talent or where they lived. So dogs that lived in the Arctic were used to pull sleds for hunting and transportation. While dogs that lived in the mountains were used for search and rescue or to injure bears and moose.

Many breeds were used to guard

Put a moratorium on wind turbines in Wainfleet

Mike and Tara Pitt of Skydive Burnaby deserve thanks for arranging this meeting and alerting those Wainfleet residents who attended about the potential negative health, economic and environmental threats that are facing them from industrial wind turbines.

A young gentleman also attended representing Tom Rankin, a second contractor who plans on putting up turbines in Wainfleet. To date we are already threatened with up to 18 turbines, yet there has only been one single and poorly attended public meeting, and the first turbines has yet to even be placed.

With regard to Mr. Rankin's representative, who described Rankin Construction as a small, local family company only concerned with serving the communities best interests, I do have to ask if they are really that concerned and engaged with the community then why couldn't Mr. Rankin himself appear? At least it would have made those claims more credible.

In reality, Mr. Rankin has shown his concern in Wainfleet before. Last year he appeared as a delegate before the last Wainfleet council to request they consider a motion to ask the province to impose a moratorium on any further turbine until investigations were completed into the potential negative health effects associated with turbines. Council received that delegation then elected to invite wind energy companies to respond at the next council meeting.

Mr. Rankin was one who did appear and respond, and just as John Andrews of IPC Energy, at the recent council meeting, refused to respond to any concerns I expressed and just dismissed them as "junk science".

Pretty much what his young representative did last Saturday morning.

I think at that first delegate appearance there were around 40 municipalities in attendance. Once Mr. Rankin had appeared then the council refused to show any more interest.

Second time around, and now with 73 municipalities asking for a moratorium, and a new township council elected on a promise of more community involvement in decision making, one can only hope Wainfleet will become municipality No. 74.

I do have to thank all members of council for coming out and attending that community meeting. A refreshing change to have a council all committed to the concerns of their constituents.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

Let the mid-peninsula highway rest in peace

I'm disappointed with Mayor Vance Badawey's support of PC Leader Tim Hudak in the "more is better" idea of yet another stretch of highway, paving over our scarce farmland, that even the government slowly understands, is in need of protection.

see LETTERS page 6



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

such great workers and devoted to their owners then new jobs needed to be created for them.

Around the same time, obedience and tracking competitions had started to become very popular. The working breeds were trained to do these exercises and they excelled at these tests. The dogs loved this work and the owners loved the success of winning at these trials which were held all over the country.

New jobs were developing all the time. We now have working dogs that help the blind, or the disabled. We have dogs that can sniff out bombs or drugs at airports and other locations. And finally, many of these working breeds have a great talent to be great family pets.

Their job now is to be a devoted, intelligent companion.

Next time: Working dogs of the north

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■ **AVAILABILITY:** How much is too much information?

Internet access — the good, the bad, the ugly

Pornography is repulsive. I believe that to be a fair statement. The images that can be found online are disturbing. Out-wrenching, in fact.

But what's even more disturbing is the availability of it.

There are dozens of easily accessible sites.

Wander into any of them and you will find anything and everything, an unlimited source of violence, degradation and degradation. This is the stuff that's available to everyone and it's free for the taking.

Unbelievable.

Now, I'm no prude, not by a long shot, and I'm not naïve. It takes a lot to shock me, it really does. But it's absolutely bizarre what's out there.

Welcome to the Information Age.

Welcome to unadulterated access to pretty much anything for anyone and everyone who owns a computer, including children, many of whom have parents who don't always monitor their kids' computer access. They should.

Welcome to WikiLeaks and



George Duma
BY GEORGE

all the repercussions that come with it.

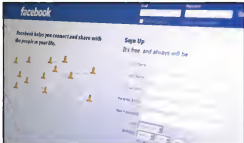
Who cares about national security? Throw the information out there and let's see what happens. And if we're tipping off the bad guys, too bad.

Freedom of speech, don't you know?

Welcome to the Internet. I'm currently imagining a book, one that focuses on the time people my age spent growing up in the 1960s through to what young people currently face, in terms of everyday computer-related, especially social media.

And especially the horrible stuff available at one's fingertips, provided there is a computer in front of an individual.

I draw not only on my own childhood and how we interacted as youths back



As helpful as the Internet can be, it is equally as dangerous. Many young people don't fully understand the ramifications of posting things on websites like Facebook.

then — it was so simple — but on experiences of teaching at a community college and how young people currently interact and how educators try to teach social media at post-secondary institutions.

Heck, bullying in our day meant getting pushed around by some moron in the schoolyard until you stood up

to him and he backed down.

Today, it means posting videos on Facebook that have caused some of the bullied to commit suicide.

It's astonishing what young people will expose of themselves and each other — figuratively and literally — on Facebook, for example.

And then they in turn are

astounded that employers actually take the time to look and assess the judgment of their employees based on how they use Facebook.

Well, go figure.

If people are making ridiculously poor judgments on social-media sites, up to and including publicly exposing themselves and/or posting nasty things about their employers, it stands to reason that lack of judgment could and probably will carry into the workplace.

Many of the human brain filters seem to have disappeared.

With the film *The Social Network* cleaning up at the recent Golden Globes and sure bet to pick up its fair share of Academy Awards, and the whole notion of social media and everything that goes with it, the question begs to be asked — how much access is too much?

It seems we simply don't have an answer for that

anymore. Or, perhaps more frighteningly, we just don't care.

How did this happen? How did we allow it to happen?

I don't have the answer to that.

What I do know is as useful as the Internet is, or can be, in our day-to-day lives — and believe me I depend on it regularly at my job as so many others do — it can be equally as dangerous.

We have allowed this creature with a great pace with, in so many cases, little or no sense of responsibility as to the potential consequences.

And I'm not sure a barn door to close even exists anymore.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@cogeco.ca

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Sealed Quotations in envelopes provided by the City will be received by Ashley Grigg, City Clerk until 2:00 p.m. local time on:

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2011

for equipment rentals, on an hourly basis, of various types of equipment that the City may require for use, from time to time, 2011 to 2012.

Quotation documents and envelopes can be obtained from the Engineering & Operations Department, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8, at no charge.

Quotations will be opened after 2:15 p.m. local time on Tuesday February 8, 2011 at the Engineering & Operations Department, Second Floor, City Hall.

The lowest or any quotation will not necessarily be accepted.

Ashley Grigg
City Clerk

Ron Hanson C.E.T.
Director of Engineering & Operations

inPortbriefs

ELIMINATION DINNER
PORT COLBORNE — If you buy yourself an early bird ticket for Port Colborne Hospital Foundation's elimination draw you might be one of six winners of a Tim Hortons coffee maker.

The grand prize for the annual draw, a fundraiser for the hospital foundation, is \$2,000.

The annual elimination draw and dinner takes place Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Italian Canadian Cultural Centre, 223 Bell St.

It will feature dinner, wine and elimination draw tickets along with live and silent auctions and a 50/50 draw. Admission is \$60 per person, which includes a draw ticket, and doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Every 25th ticket drawn will win \$50. Payments can be made by Visa, Mastercard, American Express or by cheque payable to Port Colborne Hospital Foundation, 260 Sugarloaf St., Port Colborne, ON L3K 2N7. Proceeds from the event

will go towards funding the equipment needs at the Port Colborne hospital.

Tickets for the early bird draw, which cost \$60, have to be purchased before Jan. 31 by calling the foundation at 905-834-0351 ext. 32126.

NOMINATIONS OPEN

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for youth citizen of the year, citizen of the year,

business of the year.

The awards are handed out each year at the chamber's President's Awards Reception, sponsored by Grant Thornton LLP. This year's reception takes place Wednesday, March 2, at Roseleaf Centre.

Past youth citizen of the year winners include Karlin Saxton, Charlene Hartwick and Matthew Flagg, past citizen of the year winners include Jane Brent, Brent Kovach and Jane Feagan and past business of the year winners include Tidyman Maintenance Ltd., J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd. and Dundee Wealth Management. For nomination forms and criteria contact the chamber at 76 Main Street W., Port Colborne, call 905-834-9765 or visit the website at www.pocwchamber.com.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan. 28.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

The hope is it will increase Port Colborne's prosperity by encouraging more business to choose our sites. He is willing to blacken a huge acreage of land, which will just fill up with bumper-to-bumper vehicles again. But of course the building and paving frenzy will create some jobs and a band of shopping malls etc. But in the end we have done more of the same, and not made a single advance. It's time to think cleaner.

SEX ASSAULT ON WELLAND CAMPUS

WELLAND — Single charges of robbery and sexual assault have been laid against a Port Colborne man who allegedly committed the crimes against a Niagara College student.

On Monday at about 5:45 p.m., a female college student was studying at the Welland campus when a male approached her and allegedly attempted to steal her purse before sexually assaulting her. Niagara Regional Police said in a news release.

The victim called for assistance and the male fled on foot. Investigation led to the arrest of Corey Gamble, 24, of West St., on Tuesday.

RACING GEARS UP

PORT COLBORNE — Registration for the 2011 racing

season at New Humberstone Speedway will be held Feb. 12 at Frado's Dining Lounge in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Though no new rules will be introduced at this registration meeting, material outlining such changes as the switch to Friday night racing and then addition of the FASTRAK late-model class will be distributed.

Following is a list of registration times for the various divisions. Frontier Auto Demolition pure stocks, Brian's Tire Repair street stocks, 1 p.m.; mini stocks, Niagara Auto Sales pro 4 trucks, 2 p.m.; Cosco Haulage sportsman, Peters Excavating FASTRAK late models, 3 p.m.

For more information, call Humberstone Speedway at 905-834-0002, Cosco Haulage at 905-935-2886 or online at www.humberstonespeedway.com.

Besides, the market to the south with our high dollar is not likely going to buy much from us. Sales are more likely in Mexico, Japan and China.

Meanwhile, while the recession plays little part, we have time to increase our railroad links. We need a railroad crossing in Port Erie, and a train connection from Port Erie to Toronto and eventually Sudbury, for freight and people. Imagine if our students could hop on a train and attend university

in Toronto. Goods should be shipped by train or boat. Take the road for the road, less emissions, safer, more reliable, and plenty of room on the QEW.

In the foreseeable future, when gas is too expensive, we need the alternative of train service. What good is building another highway through Niagara?

I do hope the public has a better grasp of the future than Niagara has. As the mid-pen highway is dead for very good reasons. We don't sell vast tracts of our land anymore for the paltry of a few hundred jobs for two or three years. That does not work anymore. Let's consider at least 50 years ahead. In 50 years, people would look at it, shake their heads and say, "It doesn't make sense, but you know, they didn't know any better."

Only thing is, we do know better.

Doris Tepp
Port Colborne



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■ AUTONET: 2011 Toyota Corolla

Corolla powers ahead

JOE DUARTE
QMI Agency

Toyota's Corolla is significantly refreshed for the 2011 model year, with improvements to styling (front and rear lamps, front and rear bumpers, grille and trunk lid, larger side mirrors and sleeker roofline by moving the A and C pillar bases), performance, fuel efficiency and value. It is of course benefits from Toyota's Star Safety System, which is standard on every 2011 Toyota.

Every Corolla sold in Canada today is built in Canada. Over one million have been sold in Canada

over 40 years and 80% of them sold in the last 20 years are reportedly still on the road.

For 2011, there are four front-wheel drive models powered by one of two engines, controlled by one of three transmissions. There are also updated option packages.

The Toyota Star Safety System is a comprehensive array of emergency avoidance features, including Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Traction Control (TRAC), Anti-lock Brake System (ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), and Toyota's



Toyota photo

Toyota's Corolla is significantly refreshed for the 2011 model year, with improvements to styling, performance, fuel efficiency and value.

Smart Stop Technology (SST) that chooses braking if both the brake and accelerator pedals are pushed at the

same time. Four wheel disc brakes are standard (ventilated up front).

For occupant protection, there are six standard airbags (front, front side impact and full side air curtains), seatbelt pretensioners, front active headrests (that are moved up and forward to minimize whiplash injuries), and an energy absorbing steering column.

Corolla CE, LE and S are fitted with a 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine equipped with Variable Valve Timing (Dual VVT-i) to keep it fuel efficient while delivering 132 horsepower and up to 128

lb.-ft. of torque. Corolla XRS gets a 2.4-litre VVT-i "four" that makes 158 hp and 162 lb.-ft. Direct injection and electronic throttle control help balance the efficiency and power.

A five speed manual transmission is standard on CE, S and XRS trim levels; a four speed automatic is standard on LE and optional on CE and S, and a five speed automatic with sequential shift is optional on XRS.

Although the base CE doesn't come with air-conditioning or power windows and doors, there's room for five and design changes to

the seats, dash and instrument cluster. A multi-information display is standard, as is tilt and telescoping steering. Corolla S and XRS get a flat-bottom steering wheel as well as an upgraded audio system. All Corollas get dual power remote heated and foldable side mirrors, audio systems with a CD player with MP3/WMA capability and AUX input jack, a dust/pollen/odour filter, a 60/40 split fold-down rear seatback, upper and lower glove box, and storage pockets on the sides of the centre console.

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Announcement



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Frank Stewart of The Verge Insurance Group is pleased to announce that Robert Belanger has joined their team. Robert is a graduate of the Mohawk College Insurance Program and brings over 23 years of customer service experience to his customers. Robert has deep roots in the South Niagara community having been born and raised in Port Colborne. He is bilingual and looks forward to serving the French community. Robert will be located at 572 Niagara Street in Welland.

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■ DONATION



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
TD Canada Trust donated \$375 to the Reaching Out and Changing Lives capital campaign for the renovation and expansion of Port Carers' Reach Out Centre. Pictured from left are Port Carers volunteers Robert Schaubel and Jane Martin, Reach Out Centre supervisor Sarah Eller and TD Canada Trust Staff Colborne branch manager Frank Dedonato.

■ BUSINESS

Dunnville-based design company moves into Harmony on West

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A Dunnville-based residential and commercial design company has expanded its services into Port Colborne.

Deborah Dewar Design is now available at Harmony on West. Dewar is a designer and accredited member of Canadian Decorators Association and has been helping clients design and furnish their living spaces for the past 18 years, operating her own business since 2002.

"After sailing to Port Colborne for many years with

my husband, I am very familiar with Harmony on West... and decided it would be the perfect spot to expand my business. I have always loved the area."

Dewar offers a full range of design services including colour consultation, space planning, furnishings, lighting, art and accessories, custom window treatments, slipcovers, reupholstering, renovation and new home consultation, as well as staging for resale.

Focusing mainly on residential interiors, Dewar also has several commercial projects under her belt, such as

The Village by the Grand, a 44-unit life lease building, a new medical clinic in Dunnville, as well as smaller offices.

"My goal is to help you create an inviting and comfortable home based on your personal style while keeping your budget in mind," Dewar said.

"The design process usually starts with an in-home consultation to determine your design preferences and needs. This can take as little as one hour."

Dewar has a small display area set up in the store on West St., but offers a broad range of products not on display.

"I am excited and pleased Deborah has brought her design service to my shop," said Bonnie Beres, owner of Harmony on West.

If you want to meet Dewar, she is in the Port Colborne store, 204 West St., Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dewar will maintain her office in Dunnville as well. For more information go to www.deborahdewar designs.com call 905-774-3355.

Dewar will also be offering design workshops in the evenings at Harmony on West. For details go to www.harmonyonwest.com or call 905-834-2288.

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■ **HIGHWAY:** Mayor wants to see mid-pen built

Badawey backs Hudak on south Niagara highway

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —Conservative Party Leader Tim Hudak has at least one backer when it comes to idea of reviving the mid-peninsula corridor.

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey said Hudak, MPP for Niagara West-Glanbrook, shouldn't be getting slammed as much as he is by opposition to a highway through the middle of Niagara.

"The mid-pen has been a priority for two decades in Niagara and it must happen soon. I'll come to the defence of Tim on this one," he said.

Badawey said the proposed highway is imperative to help enhance the economy of not only Niagara and Hamilton, but also of the province as well.

The mayor said Port Colborne set aside lands for

industrial use, along the east side of the Welland Canal, recently. But, he said, those lands are no good to potential investors if there is no road link to the rest of Ontario.



Vance Badawey

A mid-peninsula corridor would help link those lands, and industrial lands in Welland as well, to the Hamilton area and beyond. It would also help strengthen the city's other assets along the new lands, which include water and rail access.

"Our plan for a mid-peninsula corridor is not to link Niagara to the GTA, but to link Niagara to the 403/401 corridor, well west of

"The mid-pen has been a priority for two decades in Niagara and it must happen soon. I'll come to the defence of Tim (Hudak) on this one."

Vance Badawey, Mayor of Port Colborne

Burlington. We already have a Niagara-GTA corridor, it's called the QEW."

Badawey said the QEW is too congested with commercial and everyday traffic and while he congratulates the provincial government for expanding it, it's still not enough.

A new highway would take commercial traffic and commerce in and out of Niagara

to other areas of the province, other than the GTA, and also be a good connection to the U.S.

The link, he said, would help set the economy in direction that favours Niagara's strengths.

"We're within one day's drive of a huge market in the U.S. and we have a lot to offer here with rail and water links. Businesses that

want to locate in an area look for these kinds of things. Businesses want to get to their customers as quickly as they can.

"Simply put, look around with respect to the current state of our infrastructure and economy. How is it working out for us? This is not a



Tim Hudak

partisan issue, it is an initiative that is dependent on all of us working together toward strengthening our economic position on the global stage."

As for the new highway taking away valuable land, Badawey said the greenbelt legislation will protect certain lands.

Land that could be used for the highway, he said, would be that already targeted for industrial growth and use.

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■ **TRACK:** Switch made to Friday racing

Flag falls on Sunday night racing in Port

BERND FRANK
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A Sunday tradition in south Niagara is no more, not that too many people will notice.

After 51 years of wrapping up the weekend with an evening racing program, first at Gasport Speedway and for the past seven years as New Humberstone Speedway under current



Linda Cosco

owners Pete and Linda Cosco, the one-third-mile track will run Friday nights beginning with the 2011 season.

Any Sunday shows will only take place on long weekends. Dwindling attendance resulting from holding races on a school and work night was cited as the reason for making the "bold move," the auto racing track said in a news release announcing the change.

"With so many attractions in the Niagara region, we need to be on the front end of the entertainment. Sunday is traditionally a family day and it was hard to get fans away from quality times with their families," Bob Davidson, the track's general manager, said.

"Switching to Fridays allows the fan to get their racing fix and spend time with their families at home."

Fridays had always been Ransomville Speedway's night on a racing circuit starting in western New York, then taking drivers to Saturday night's racing program at Merrittville Speedway in Thorold before wrapping Sunday

night in Port Colborne.

However, with modifications no longer part of the regular lineup at New Humberstone, the change in schedule isn't expected to decrease car counts at either track.

"This won't affect Ransomville and Ransomville won't affect our track, so it won't be a problem for drivers," said Linda Cosco, who owns the track with her husband Pete.

She said modifications had only been racing every other week at the Port Colborne speedway.

It's been seven years since the Coscos bought the former Gasport track and reopened the speedway on Hwy. 3 east of Colborne under the New Humberstone, and every one of those years was dedicated to getting more fans in the stands.

"We wanted to give it an honest try to see if it (Sunday night) would take hold, but we're just not getting the people," she said of the decision to let the checked flag fall on the traditional wrapup to the racing weekend.

Linda Cosco pegged "break even" at 800 fans at least, "but we've only been getting 400 to 500 people."

Moving to Fridays also allows Humberstone to start at 7:15 p.m., producing better track conditions while providing some relief from the daytime heat.

For the 2011 racing season, Humberstone will run a six-division program, consisting of mini stocks, the Frontier Auto Dismantler pure stocks, Niagara Auto Sales pro 4 trucks, Brian's Tire Repair street stocks, Cosco Haulage sportsman and the new FASTRAK Series Crate late models which will have Peters excavating as its title sponsor.

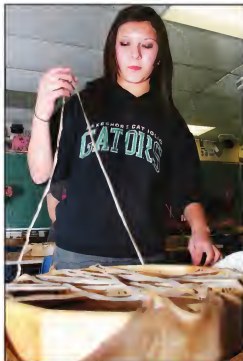
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■ DRUMS



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Myris Kataquapit and Amanda Tippler are among more than a dozen students who created traditional Cree fire drums last week as part of a native studies class at Lakeshore Catholic High School. Right, student Tamra Nettagog works to tighten the rawhide strips holding her traditional Cree fire drum together.



Preserving native culture

FROM PAGE 12

To create the drum head, deer hide was soaked and stretched over the frame. Strips of rawhide laced through the hide and tightened across the frame created the necessary taut surface.

Though it was a first for many in the class, it's an activity Tamra Nettagog has taken on once before.

"This time was special for the Grade 10 student, however, as she was able to burn symbols representing her Ojibwa background into her creation.

"This is a way to spread around our culture so other people can learn about it," she said, proudly working her way through the project.

Crawford enjoys going into classrooms and sharing native art and culture with youth.

"It's really awesome because it creates unity between the cultures. We're breaking down barriers and destroying unhealthy images," she said.

Native culture needs to be preserved and shared, she said, so it can continue to be passed on through generations.

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Only original newspaper ballots or hand-drawn ballots accepted. No mechanical reproductions allowed. Employees of the Tribune, and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners of the Grand Prize will be determined by a random draw from all entries received by 5 p.m., Friday, February 25th, 2011. Winners will be contacted by phone. You do not have to fully complete ballot to win.

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Write the names of your favourite businesses on the line provided. You can vote for as many different types of business as you wish in each of the 5 categories. Those merchants and businesses who receive the most votes will win the prestigious Readers Choice Award. The winners will be announced in a special section of the In Port News March 11th, 2011. Watch for our promo! Your ballot is your entry to our cash prize! So fill it out and send it today! The deadline for submission is 5 p.m., Friday, February 25th, 2011.

Limit: One ballot per reader.

Please note: All categories do not have to be fully completed.

* Non Subscribers win \$50

■ ARTS PLACE: New exhibit

Colourful exhibit will warm you this winter

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —With everything dull, grey and cold right now, Arts Place Gallery is the place to get a little warmth and colour.

A member exhibit called 10+1, running now until Feb. 27, showcases a lot of colour.

A mix of oil-based, water-colour and acrylic paintings can be found hanging from the gallery's walls at 714 King St.

There are displays of children playing in the sand, brightly coloured flowers,

summertime scenes of Port Colborne and even a couple of winter scenes that have some warmth to them.

"This is the place to come and warm up," gallery member Cathy Peters says.

Peters' work features flowers and children in the sand. She gets her inspiration from her travels and from Port Colborne.

"Port Colborne has a lot to offer and is the best kept secret around. There's an abundance of beautiful scenery and people around town. The world passes

by Port Colborne every day," says the painter, who started out as a hobbyist. She's been painting seriously for the past 10 years.

When the current exhibit is over, artists will get ready for

another one in March.

"We're always evolving here and change exhibits every four to six weeks," Peters says.

The March exhibit will involve found objects that artists have painted —tables,

chairs, shelves, whatever an artist wants.

In addition to gallery members taking part in that exhibit, these outside artists are invited to take part.

"It should be quite the eclect-

tic collection."

During the winter, the gallery is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call the gallery at 905-834-9060 or visit www.artsplacegallery.com.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Arts Place Gallery member Cathy Peters puts up one of her paintings for a member exhibit called 10+1, running now until Saturday, Feb. 27.

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EYE EXAMS ARRANGED

■ **IRENE:** Operatic Society rehearsing newest production

'Classic' Broadway is a retelling of Cinderella

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Irene, Port Colborne Operatic Society's newest production, is a song and dance show that's "classic Broadway," says the society's public relations manager.

"It's a very different show from our one (Red, Hot and

Cole) last year. It's a retelling of Cinderella. It's about a not so well off Irish girl in Manhattan in the 1920s," said Stephanie Menicanin.

Menicanin said Irene is a woman who is ahead of her time and trying to make her way in the world. Through her job as a piano tuner, Irene, played by Melinda Fetiz, meets Donald S. Marshall III,

played by Tim Barnai. She makes her way through the "upper crust" society and, said Menicanin, learns she doesn't have to be rich to be happy.

"It's a traditional love triumphing over all story,"

Sunday saw Menicanin, who plays Irene's mother, and the other cast members rehearsing the show in the

Lakeshore Catholic High School auditorium, where it will be performed starting in February.

She said Fetiz was doing quite well considering it was her first time in a major lead role for the society. Fetiz has been in other productions since 2005.

"Her sister, her mother and her mother's sister are in the

show as well."

Menicanin said the operatic society is a family-based organization, where more than one member and generation are members and may be in the same production and on stage at the same time.

While family members are part of the society, new members join the various productions as well.

Starring as Donald S. Marshall III's mother is Cecile Descoeurs, of Welland.

Descoeurs used to be a member of Opera Hamilton Chorus, Niagara Chorus and various other choirs, so she's no stranger to singing.

"This is the first time I'll have a role though."

see **OPERA** page 19



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